From the 2018-19 financial year a new consultancy service will launch to bring together support for both individual and departmental-led consultancy under the auspices of Lancaster University.

Providing specialist advice based on established expertise
- Access Knowledge & Expertise
- Business Growth & Innovation
- Process & Technology Implementation

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Why are we doing this?

Existing support for consultancy at Lancaster is not meeting the needs of staff or the organisation. Consultancy is an important and effective way for the University to share its knowledge and expertise with government, industry and the third sector.

Without an effective support service for consultancy, we are missing opportunities to engage with business and our community.

What is consultancy?

Consultancy is the provision of expert advice based on existing knowledge. Unlike research, the purpose of undertaking consultancy is not to create new original knowledge, although new information based on the application of expertise to a client’s challenge or problem may result from the work.

Examples of consultancy include:

- Technical and creative solutions to specific problems
- Serving on scientific advisory boards
- Expert witness services
- Specialist reports on technical, economic and commercial issues
- Review of strategy or policies
- Provision of specialist advice to media productions
- Expert advice on the implementation of new technologies or models

What benefits does consultancy bring?

- A mechanism for the delivery and demonstration of impact from research (REF)
- An opportunity to gain contemporary experience that can inform teaching (TEF)
- Consultancy is recognised by HESA through HE-BCI returns and attracts HEIF funding, and will contribute to the forthcoming Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)

Key features of the new service*

- Dedicated support for service through Consultancy Manager
- Supporting individual and departmental consultancy
- No ‘service-charge’
- Support for costing, pricing and negotiation
- Payment options including PAYE and personal research accounts
- Paid on completion, credit control managed centrally

*Subject to final approval of University governing committees